

abdominal segment as described, and the minute apical points of the elytra. The reticulately punctate fifth ventral segment is in contrast to the finer punctation in the latter. Moreover, the present species is of smaller size. It is one of the most strongly marked and one of the most attractive of the species occurring in our fauna.

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### INSECTS AND HOMOEOPATHIC MAGIC

Sir James George Frazer in his "Golden Bough," a "study in magic and religion," states that the Arab, to bring back a slave who has run away "will trace a magic circle on the ground, stick a nail in the middle of it, and attach a beetle by a thread to the nail, taking care that the sex of the beetle is that of the fugitive. As the beetle crawls round and round, it will coil the thread about the nail, thus shortening its tether and drawing nearer to the center at every circuit." By reason of this magic the fugitive will be drawn back to his owner. Sometimes homœopathic magic is utilized to invalidate a bad omen by going through it imitatively. For example, in Madagascar, "if fate has decreed that a young girl, still unwed, should see her children, still unborn, descend before her with sorrow to the grave, she can avert the calamity as follows. She kills a grasshopper, wraps it in a rag to represent a shroud, and mourns over it like Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted. Moreover, she takes a dozen or more other grasshoppers, and having removed some of their superfluous legs and wings she lays them about their dead and shrouded fellow. The buzz of the tortured insects and the agitated motions of their mutilated limbs represent the shrieks and contortions of the mourners at a funeral. After burying the deceased grasshopper she leaves the rest to continue their mourning till death releases them from their pain; and having bound up her dishevelled hair she retires from the grave with the step and carriage of a person plunged in grief. Thenceforth she looks cheerfully forward to seeing her children survive her; for it cannot be that she should mourn and bury them twice over."—ED.